



Pete Ricketts, Governor

DATE: August 4, 2021
TO: NDCS Team Members
FROM: Dir. Scott R. Frakes
RE: J&J Vaccine Availability

Please be advised that we are able to provide additional doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Health officials have determined that vaccine, when properly stored and maintained, has a longer shelf life than previously estimated. The vaccine remains stable, without any loss in effectiveness.

NDCS Medical Director Dr. Harbans Deol has authorized administration of the J&J vaccine throughout the month of August and the first half of September to inmates as well as staff members. The J&J vaccine has been effective in addressing variant forms of COVID-19, including the most recent Delta variant.

You have no doubt heard of “breakthrough” cases of COVID (positive cases occurring in previously vaccinated individuals). It is important to know that cases have been less severe in individuals who have been vaccinated. For those who have certain health conditions, COVID-19 is still considered a serious, and potentially life-threatening disease.

We will continue to offer vaccine as long as our supply is available. Please notify Nurse Jude Dean (jude.dean@nebraska.gov) if you wish to be vaccinated. Keep observing universal health precautions, like frequent hand washing. Wearing of masks continues to be voluntary among staff members and inmates. If an inmate requests a mask, please be sure one is provided.

We are also resuming the carrying of hand sanitizer for all staff members. As a reminder, here are the requirements:

- Personal-sized containers must be 4 oz or less and clear. No colored bottles are allowed
- Bottles must be secured at all times
- You may give a squirt to an inmate if he/she asks (for example, during dining or visitation), but do not hand over the bottle

Scott R. Frakes, Director

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